

Richmond, IN - Congressman Mike Pence held his fifth town hall of the summer at Reid Hospital, speaking with over 500 constituents. The town hall is available to view on the *Pal-Item* website

[HERE](#)

Pictures from the event are available [HERE](#) .



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## **Rep. Pence's town hall meeting features a healthy discussion**

*'There has been no issue I have heard more about'*

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Government-run health care would cause most small business owners to stop paying health insurance benefits for employees and leave "tens of millions of Americans" looking for new coverage, Rep. Mike Pence said Wednesday at a town hall meeting in Richmond.

But "inaction is not an option on health care reform in this country," Pence said to the more than 500 attending the meeting at Reid Hospital's Lingle Auditorium.

"There has been no issue that I have heard more about in my nearly nine years as your

congressman than dramatic, devastating increases in the cost of health insurance premiums to small business owners and family farmers," said Pence, a Republican who serves east central Indiana. "We've seen health insurance premiums escalating at a dramatic rate -- 20, 30, some cases 50 percent -- on an annual basis. A lot of that has been driven by the escalating cost of health care in this country."

Pence said he supports a plan that "introduces competition" among private insurance companies on a national scale to drive costs down while lifting the state-by-state regulations that keep health care costs high.

"The proposal that is moving through Congress right now, which would address the rising cost of health care, the rising cost of health insurance, by creating a government insurance plan to compete with the private sector, is not the answer in my opinion," Pence said to a crowd often applauding and showing open support for his positions.

Most who spoke or asked questions at the meeting said they feared the effects of President Barack Obama's health care reform.

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